



DATE:

October 5, 1995

5400.1

TO:

L.E. Woods, Kaiser-Hill, Bldg. T130B, X3378

FROM:

T.R. Ryon, Ecology Team, Bldg. T130B, X3657

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE TRAPPING

AT THE OPERABLE UNIT 7 LANDFILL POND INLET-TRR-007-95

On September 28th, I was asked to visit the OU7 Landfill pond and determine if suitable Preble's meadow jumping mouse exists and if trapping should be conducted to determine presence/absence at the pond. The request was due to the proposed leachate collection system project to be started in November 1995. I determined that suitable habitat was present although isolated and that trapping should be conducted.

I am writing this memo to state my concerns in the timing of this survey. This time of year is normally associated with the onset of hibernation for PMJM. Adult mice have not been captured for about two weeks now, but the PMJM Investigations Subcontractor is still capturing juvenile mice as of today. My concern is that nothing can come of this trapping effort unless a PMJM is captured due to the likelihood that the local population around the OU7 Pond is already in hibernation.

At your request, I called Bernardo Garzza of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to get his opinion of the timing of this trapping effort. He stated that it would be better to wait until next spring to determine presence or absence of the mouse regardless of the fact that juveniles are still being captured in the Buffer Zone at locations other than the landfill pond.

On a related note, most PMJM captures occur within the first four days of trapping. We will complete the first three days tomorrow. I will recommend stopping trapping after Tuesday morning, but will leave the decision with the OU7 manager.

TRR:trr

cc:

C.S. Evans

J.D. Krause

M.B. Murdock

ERPD Records File (2)

ADMIN RECCRD